

Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

To: Distribution List
From: Michelle Smith
Date: January 18, 2001
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Subject: Rocky Reach Social Sciences
Attendees: Refer to Sign-Up Sheet
Location: Retail Operations Conference Room, Wenatchee, WA

PURPOSE

- 1) Review study plan for Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis
- 2) Review second draft Recreation Use Assessment Study Report
- 3) Review status of Land Management Report and Comprehensive Plan Matrix

Prior to discussing the agenda topics, Michelle Smith, Chelan PUD (PUD) reviewed the Rocky Reach relicensing schedule:

Year 2001

- Complete 2000 studies
- Prepare study plans (new studies)
- Conduct fieldwork
- Discuss cumulative impacts

Year 2002

- Evaluate study results/conflicting issues
- Discuss solutions/begin settlements/PME discussion

Year 2003

- January – First Draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA)/License Application

Year 2004

- June – PDEA and License Application to FERC

Michelle briefly discussed the collaborative process and asked working group members if everyone was comfortable with the process and their roles and how they fit into the process. Gregg Carrington (PUD) mentioned he was concerned that BLM has not been present at the working group meetings and that there has not been a representative from the Colville Confederate Tribes participating in the Social Sciences Working Group. Michelle explained she has been in contact with Jim Fisher, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Although he has had scheduling conflicts, he has been reviewing the materials, providing comments and hopes to attend more meetings. Jim Eychaner, Interagency for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), responded in reference to the Colville Tribes and explained that, in his observation, if the tribes give any attention to recreation, it would be to voice their concerns regarding potential impacts to cultural sites. Joe Rumble (Monitor Community Council) commented that it would be useful to get more ratepayers involved in the process.

Jim (IAC) clarified that the working group's role is to work collaboratively on a set of recommendations and not to make decisions on the entire package. Michelle mentioned that she would be willing to have a consultant that has been involved in other relicensings and negotiations (potentially Martha Bean) make a presentation to the working group regarding the collaborative process and roles of stakeholders in making decisions. Bill Fraser, Washington State Parks, commented that it would be helpful for him to know who are the mandatory conditioning agencies and what are their concerns. His point was that without knowing their concerns the process could be a waste of time. Jim (IAC) responded by saying that the group effort should not be described as a waste of time. He continued by saying that the mandatory conditioning agencies have a responsibility to make sure that their recommendations are supported by the needs of the area and are supported by the data collected (through study reports). Gregg (PUD) agreed and stated that the study reports will be used as evidence in supporting or rejecting protection, mitigation or enhancement measures (PMEs). Michelle recommended setting aside time in a future meeting to discuss the Federal Power Act, mandatory conditioning authorities and the role of all stakeholders in the relicensing process.

Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis Study Plan, First Draft

Michelle (PUD) distributed the first draft of the study plan and stated that after the 30-day comment period (Feb. 19, 2001) the study plan will be finalized. The estimated study report completion dates are April 1, 2001, for a first draft with the final report expected by Sept. 1, 2001.

Gregg (PUD) pointed out that although the study goal is to evaluate recreation use and demands and identify recreation needs of the area, the analysis is not intended to assign the PUD's responsibility in meeting all those needs. The study will provide Chelan PUD and other recreation managers the information needed for the management, planning, design and construction of recreation resources in the area.

Recreation Resources Inventory, Final

This study plan was finalized in January 2000, and Debby Howe, Howe Consulting, will begin working on the inventory immediately. A first draft is anticipated by March 30, 2001. Michelle (PUD) mentioned that most of the comments received indicated that there was not enough "Exhibit R" detail in the study plan. She will include a summary of "Exhibit R" in the study report.

Gregg (PUD) pointed out that the inventory includes summaries of both public and private recreational facilities. He suggested that prior to the first draft of the report, a preliminary copy should be distributed to working group members to make sure the list of private facilities is complete.

Recreational Use Assessment, First Draft (Review of Comments) (see handout)

A first draft comment summary was distributed that included both the comments received and the responses. The report is now in the second draft and comments are due by Feb. 19, 2001. Michelle (PUD) explained the final report would be the driving factor of the Recreation Needs Assessment report. She added the final report would include Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife data from the special salmon season last fall.

Project Lands Management, First Draft (Review of Comments) (see handout)

A comment summary was also distributed for this report. Michelle (PUD) pointed out that IAC was the only stakeholder that provided comments.

Michelle stated that one of the goals of the report was to look at existing comprehensive plans within the project area and to make sure those plans are not in conflict with one another and that any proposed PMEs are not conflicting with existing plans.

Mapping of properties (PUD, public and private), including docks and buoys around the reservoir, is being conducted and will be included in the final report. Another component that will be included in a future draft is the PUD's role and policies related to permitting.

Open Discussion

Jim (IAC) commented that he appreciated the PUD's responses to the comments that were submitted. Michelle stated she'd like to take the opportunity to further explain the comment process. She stated that when comments are

received she would either mail a response letter and/or address the comments in a working group meeting with a handout summary of comments and responses.

Michelle mentioned that once all of the studies are finalized, the next step would be to summarize the results and begin discussing PME's.

In reference to the Socioeconomic Study, Gregg (PUD) pointed out that there was a recommendation for the city of Entiat to contact the consultant firm Jones and Jones regarding future planning. He asked what was the status of that. Wendell Black, city of Entiat, responded by saying he has tried, but has not had the opportunity to have any discussions. Gregg added that if the study could get implemented, some of the recommendations from the study would help determine how the PUD fits into the overall plan for Entiat. He also mentioned that, at the last meeting, Karin Whitehall, US Forest Service (USFS), indicated that there is a grant opportunity. Wendell stated he would follow up with Karin regarding the status.

Michelle (PUD) asked the status of the Entiat learning center trail project. Barbara Jackson (USFS) explained that the plan has been on the back burner for awhile, but the Forest Service is in a partnership with the city, school district and PUD to build a day-use trail and outdoor amphitheater at the mouth of the Entiat River. She continued by saying that the conceptual site plan has been completed. Bob Whitehall, city of Entiat, added that they are waiting for permits prior to removing the remaining riprap. Jim (IAC) stated according to the current SCORP document, non-motorized trails associated with water are the state's top priority.

Bob (city of Entiat) provided the sternwheeler update and informed the group that as soon as the retrofitting is completed, they would begin the permitting process. The docking site is still "up in the air," but Wendell (city of Entiat) stated that the Port of Chelan County is interested in partnering with the city for docking facilities.

Michelle asked the group if they saw the need for any future studies beyond studies currently in progress or completed. There were no responses, indicating the group agreed. Gregg (PUD) mentioned that one potential addition to the recreation studies might be to look at trail opportunities on the mitigation lands. He pointed out that, through an educational program, students could be involved in developing the trails and re-establishment of some of the habitat. He explained that, through the mule deer study, habitat mapping is currently being done, and the next step would be to have a consultant review the findings and determine the potential for the trail and trail design. Gregg asked Jeff Davis (Entiat School District) what his feelings were in regard to science groups from local schools participating in habitat restoration. Jeff commented that his feeling was positive, and research showed that the best way to learn is the hands-on approach. He would be more than happy to work with the PUD in collaborating with the local schools. Michelle said she would talk to Debby Howe and others to research the concept further.

Related to results in the Recreation Use Assessment, Jim (IAC) recommended talking to BLM to assure that their needs for dispersed recreation are being met. Michelle agreed and will talk to Jim Fisher.

Action Items

Barb Jackson will look into putting together a presentation of the Entiat River Outdoor Learning Center trail concept to present to the working group in the near future.

Michelle will contact Jim Fisher (BLM) regarding dispersed recreation.

Comments are due Feb. 19 for the Recreation Needs Forecast Study Plan and the Second Draft Recreation Use Assessment Report.

Next meeting of the working group will occur in March. Michelle will send out a notice for potential dates.

Reference materials are posted on the web site, www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense.

Please contact Rosana Sokolowski, (888) 663-8121, Ext. 6371, if hard copies are needed.

- Sign-up Sheet
- Distribution List
- Rocky Reach Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis Study Plan, First Draft
- Recreation Resources Inventory, Final
- 1999/2000 Recreational Use Assessment Study Report, First Draft
- Land Management Plan Matrix
- Recreation Use Assessment, First Draft Comment Summary
- Project Lands Management, First Draft Comment Summary